



BILLING CODE: 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS-2015-0021]

Notice of Request for Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection;

Importation of Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a revision to and extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations for the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before [Insert date 60 days after date of publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0021>.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2015-0021, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0021> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 799-7039 before coming.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the regulations for the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States, contact Mr. Juan (Tony) Román, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, RCC, RPM, PHP, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 156, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 851-2242. For copies of more detailed information on the information collection, contact Ms. Kimberly Hardy, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 851-2727.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Title: Importation of Fruits and Vegetables.

OMB Control Number: 0579-0264.

Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The Plant Protection Act (PPA, 7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other articles to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or their dissemination within the United States. This authority has been delegated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which administers regulations to implement the PPA.

The regulations in “Subpart—Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56-1 through 319.56-71) allow a number of fruits and vegetables into the United States, under specified conditions,

from certain parts of the world while continuing to protect against the introduction of pests into the United States. Under these regulations, the importation of a variety of fruits and vegetables from Belgium, Central America, China, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Jerusalem, the Netherlands, South America, and Trinidad and Tobago requires the use of phytosanitary certificates.

In our previous extension request for this collection, we included the information collection activities of trapping records and compliance agreements, which were specific to untreated citrus from Mexico. However, we have removed the collection activities for untreated citrus from Mexico from this collection because they are now listed under a different Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. As a result, the overall burden numbers for this collection have decreased.

We are asking OMB to approve our use of this information collection activity, as described, for an additional 3 years.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our information collection. These comments will help us:

- (1) Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through use, as appropriate, of automated, electronic, mechanical, and other collection technologies; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Estimate of burden: The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.25 hours per response.

Respondents: National plant protection organization officials of countries exporting to the United States.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 12.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 39.

Estimated annual number of responses: 468.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 117 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2015.

Kevin Shea,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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